

REMARKS

After the entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5-15, 17-29, 76, and 124-125 are pending, of which claims 1, 3, 6, 8-15, 17-28, and 124-125 are under examination. Claims 5, 29, and 76 were withdrawn from examination as claiming non-elected subject matter of restriction requirement. Claim 123 was cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants thank Examiner Gamett for withdrawing rejection reasons based on 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph. The undersigned thanks Examiner Gamett and Primary Examiner Romeo for conducting a telephone interview on May 19, 2006. It is Applicants' understanding from Examiners Gamett and Romeo that the amendments provided herein will be entered and will place the claims in condition for allowance.

The specification was amended to include the cross reference to related applications, as first submitted by Applicant's declaration filed March 8, 2000. This amendment does not introduce any new matter, and clarifies the status of priority claims.

Objections Maintained

The Examiner maintained the objection with regard to informalities of drawings and their descriptions. Applicants have amended the specification to make clear the figure descriptions as explained in their October 11, 2005 amendment, and hereby submit corrected figures with additional legends based on the specification. The support for the amendment can be found as described in our October 11, 2005 response. As acknowledged by the Examiner in the January 23, 2006 Office Action, an amendment which incorporates the support described in the October 11, 2005 response, introduces no new matter. Therefore, this amendment introduces no new matter.

New Claim Objections

Claim 123 was objected to as being of improper dependent form. Claim 123 has been cancelled without prejudice, rendering this objection moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph (enablement)

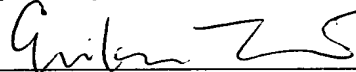
Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's guidance and based on Applicants' understanding of the May 19, 2006, telephone interview with the undersigned. It is Applicants' understanding that the amendment will be entered and will place the claims in condition of allowance.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no additional fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. JJJ-P01-570 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 23, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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